1/28/70

Paul-re Alba memo-

This is great stuff. You have pieced together a fine bit of data, and it is provocative and important. I make a few hasty notes, for it is getting late and I should try and get more rest. I'm also sending Bernabei a copy, for he is an authentic expert in some of these areas.

The possibility in the PS of your 1/24 is more than you say. Even for what we have been through it is chilling, and not at all far out.

Possibility of his ordering ammo and clip: very important, for the FBI's alleged investigation of ammo aborted as soon as they found available reloads (I go into this in WW) and there is no evidence I have ever seen of any search for a clip. It is exceedingly awkward furing that rifle without one and impossible to reload rapidly without a spare. If it can be hand loaded, that is incredibly tedious and time consuming.

"Order blank believe to have been mailed by suspect" from the June 1963 issue certainly could not have been for the rifle.

That the WR does not mention LHO's print on a magazine from which the FBI believed he had torn an order blank does, I think, have great meaning. I disagree with you on this. Liebeler knew what he was doing.

I also thought as you do about "Field and Stream", until I learned that this is how Philip Geraci learned of Panther Press. The FBI was right to take it.

"The Shooter's Book of Guns" is an annual, not inexpensive, a standard and respected work.

Your question "Who suggested taking only two of the magazines". May I suggest that a request was made for only two after the supply was examined?

If it seems unlikely than an SS agent would have called himself only one of Alba's best friends, it is not unlikely that the FBI reporting was up to their assassination standard. But your planting suspicion is quite reasonable. Incidently, I heard that the FBI also stored cars there (no confirmation), perhaps at an earlier time, and with only JG as a source, that Alba is a Minuteman.

Dick may be able to locate magazines for you.

Not even a zany would have used that rifle against Walker without a clip and backup ammo (and there is no reason to believe Oswald did that anyway).

Italian military ammo can be entirely different than Western, as I learned in buying some. I am not sure the six-shot clip is not more common. Dick will know. My recollection of the Klein reports is that as soon as they came to those frames of microfilm they stopped and did nothing but get them. But if the FBI wanted this done, checking for further orders, it would not have been too much trouble for anyone. I have no recollection of any, FBI or other, interest in a clip. That was one of the early giveaways to me. It is indispensible.

There is another, more frightening and more way-out conjecture: that some-

one else used that blank to order a duplicate of the same kind of rifle. I do not press it. It just occurs as a possibility

The Report had to treat exhibits relating to this area tenderly because the essential ones are missing. There is no record of ownership, possession, order, buying or borrowing of ammo, and the readily-available Western ammo in Dallas had been converted from military bullets, for the most part. Again, no clip. No PO record of receipt (after FBI interest in him?). Further, since locating his ammo and clip were "to the Commission's advantage", the total absence of any questin is quite revealing. As the lack of mention in the Report or evidence also is.

Still another possibility, without factual basis-that he sold that rifle and ordered another.

McNeil report does not describe typical SS man. Had I been the agent, I'd have asked more about this man, like any accent? Origin (Cuban?)(Mexican?). It happened that very day, and it impressed itself on McN, but the report says "he would not be able to identify this man if he were to see him again." Unlikely....The early-bird FBI agent interviewed him before 9 a.m. by long enough for this other man not to be intruding., also strange, as is the lack of reference in this FBI report. There was much agent Alba interest for a single day...Sounds like the agent dictating the report was close to Alba,"...until he had an occasion to discuss it with ADRIAN". Rare in FBI reports. Also, remarkable the report avoids was caused the "occasion to discuss it with ADRIAN", the same day it happened, before thi agent got there.

I think you are onto something here, hope you continue with it, and when you have gotten together what you expect to collect, would appreciate a copy. This whole affair stinks. There is notjing right about it, most of all nothing right investigatively. It comepls attention, requires suspicion. And remember, this was within easy walkig distance of everywhere Oswald was.

HW